

THORN TOWNSHIP ZONING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Date: 7-24-23

Meeting Type: Special

Meeting Location: Thorn Township Building, 13780 Zion Road, Thornville, Ohio

Board Members Present: Jim Hay, Brad Blain, Wayne Gniewkowski, Mark Becker, Mark Huggins, Alternate Mary Alice Stidham, and Alternate Sandy Davis

Zoning Department Members Present: Ed Corn, Zoning Inspector & Deborah Morgan, Zoning Secretary

Guests Present: T. P. Jenkins

Chairperson Gniewkowski opened the special meeting at 6:30 p.m. Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Brad Blain, Jim Hay, Mark Becker, Wayne Gniewkowski, Mark Huggins, Alternate Mary Alice Stidham, and Alternate Sandy Davis.

Chairperson Gniewkowski stated that the reason for this special meeting was to discuss the topic of the addition of alternative energy source regulations to the zoning resolution.

Mark Becker stated that he felt that the regulations are needed, definitely some guidelines are warranted.

Mark Huggins wanted to know what the advantages of solar farms are. Discussion was held on solar farms. It was stated that the Township can only set regulations for smaller facilities, ones less than 50 megawatts. The larger ones are government regulated, by the Ohio Power Sitting Board (OPSB).

Discussion continued on different language for the proposed regulations. The template that was provided by the zoning attorney was reviewed and some specific wording was changed to fit Thorn Township. After discussion was complete it was decided that a draft copy of the proposed regulations would be provided to the board for the upcoming public hearing on this topic scheduled for August 14th at 6:30 p.m., with the regular August zoning meeting to immediately follow.

Discussion was held on what section of the current resolution would the solar panel language fit in. It was decided that it would be Article XXIX.

Wind farm language was briefly discussed and it was decided that it can be discussed with the zoning attorney and be handled after the solar panel facility language is completed.

After no further business the special meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Deborah Morgan, Zoning Secretary